The LEGO® Builders Club

Bricks 'n Pieces

A newsletter for LEGO® Club members — Spring 1981

OUR NEW HOME

On page 4 we show the winning models in the My House Competition. So, after you have shown us your houses it is only fair we should show you ours. Only ours is not built from LEGO bricks as you might imagine!

We are still in Wrexham, North Wales, but having outgrown our old premises we have just built this spanking new headquarters on the other side of the town with enough space to handle all the Club mailings under our own roof too. We moved in during February, so please note that we have a new post code and telephone number and will no longer use the Liverpool address for the club.

Our new address for both the LEGO Builders Club and for LEGO U.K. Ltd is:

Wrexham
Clwyd LL13 7TQ
Telephone 0978 266949

We do not actually make LEGO bricks here. They all come from Denmark. So if you came to see us, all you would see are a lot of offices with people typing, telephoning, handling order forms etc. and a huge warehouse full of plain cardboard cartons with only a little code number on the outside to tell us which LEGO sets are hidden inside. Not very exciting I'm afraid, so we have not made any arrangements for looking after visitors.

All the same, we thought you might like to see a picture of our new headquarters and to know that we at least are planning for expansion and growth in the 1980s and beyond. After all, we have to think of *your* children when you are grown up.

Dear Member,

We hope you will enjoy looking through the 1981 LEGO catalogue sent with this Newsletter. There are lots of new sets for different ages and different interests.

Perhaps the most exciting are the new LEGO Railway sets, but they will not be available until August so we will take a closer look at those in our Summer Newsletter.

In the meantime there are super new LEGOLAND® Space sets for Easter as well as the LEGOLAND Town sets already in the shops. Notice too how we have divided the Basic Sets up into three age ranges now, suiting the contents to the needs of children of 3–4 years, 5–6 years and 7 years upwards.

Then in September there are some really great new Technical Sets for those of you old enough to build these detailed working models with their gears, pistons, differential gears and steering mechanisms.

All told there are 59 new sets in the 1981 LEGO range. That is the most we have ever made in one year. So you see, we have been working hard to design the sort of models we think you will like.

It should be a great year for all of us.

CLIVE NICHOLLS
Club President

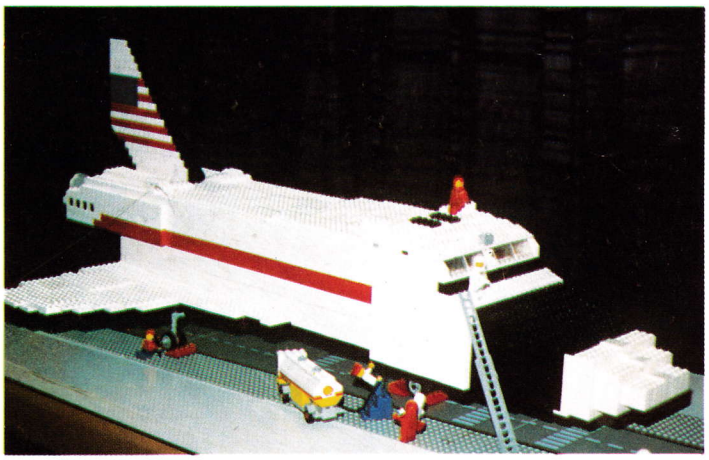
A MERRY OLD SOUL

Our headline refers to Old King Cole, the latest creation by LEGO Model Designer David Lyall. Though perhaps it could refer to David Lyall himself!

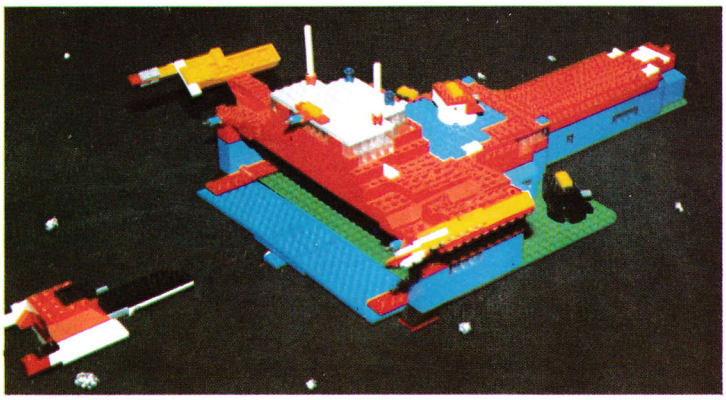
David has been designing display models for LEGO for nearly 20 years and still finds it fascinating. He never seems to run out of ideas.

In his hand you can just see the little Mouse used in our Television commercial last Christmas. Do you remember him, along with the Cat and the Dragon and the Submarine Eating Kipper? All were built by David. He is a pretty clever old soul too, isn't he?

By the way, we hear that our commercial could win a top award as one of the best TV ads. in 1980. We think it deserves it, but perhaps we are biased?

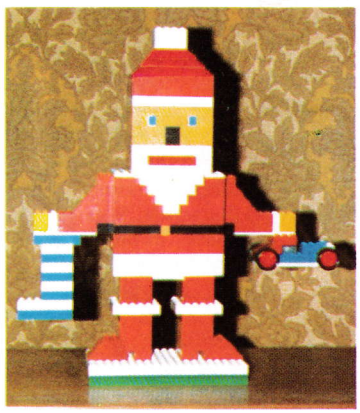


Space Shuttle Yet another space model, but this time from reality. A very impressive model from Giles Colborne (12) of Brixham, with help from younger brother Guy.



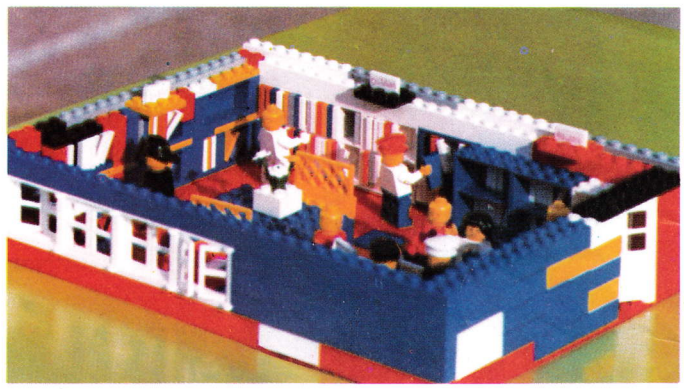
Intergalactic Cruiser Space models continue to be very popular and of the many fine examples received we specially liked this one by Mark Davison (10) of Sunderland because of its docking facility.

Nelson's Column John Morris lives in Bristol, but made this model after a visit to London.



Santa Marcus Watts (7) of Bristol designed this friendly looking Santa model, complete with stocking and a toy car. We think he's great!

Christmas in Germany Gary Henderson lives in Germany as his Dad is in the Army there. But you can see that Christmas is still Christmas with presents round the tree and carols at the piano.



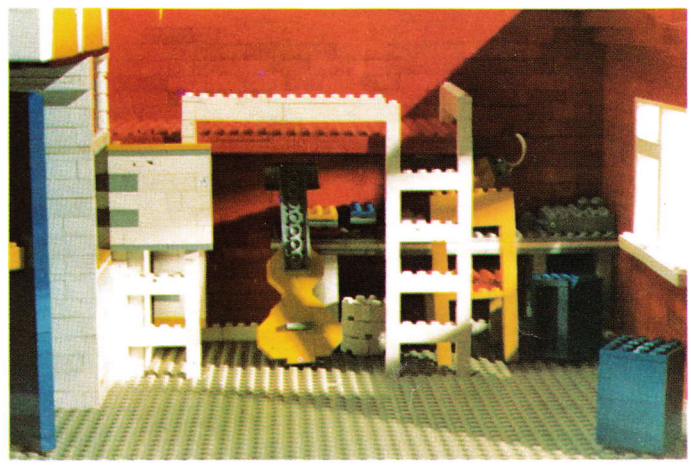
Library An original idea, beautifully detailed, from Margaret Lauson of Milton Keynes.

Pedal Bin Press the pedal and the lid lifts. Clever stuff from Daniel McDonnell of Co. Mayo.

MASTER B
AWAR

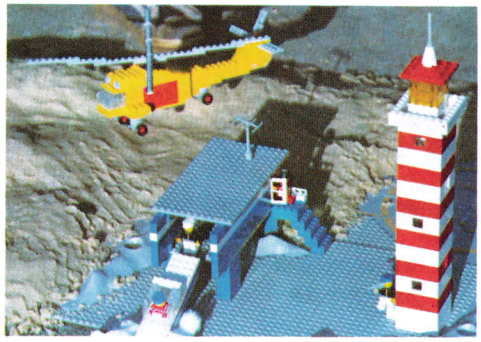
A "golden" Master Builder Badge to each of the members whose mo are shown here. If you hav photograph of a special model, se in and you too could become a M Builder if your model is shown i next issue of *Bricks 'n Pieces.*

Guitar Here's an idea for pop music fans from Christopher Coles (9) of Weston Super Mare.

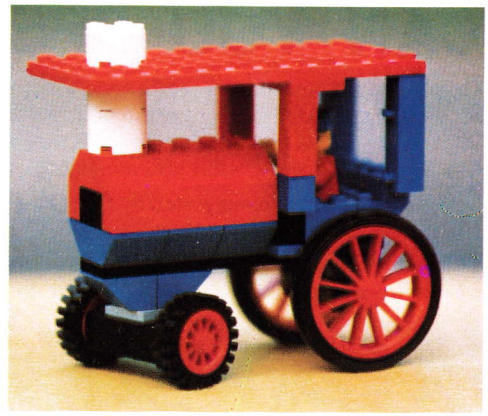


My Bedroom Kevin Jeffrey (10) is the brother of Robert who built the Lamborghini. It looks as though Kevin is keen on music. The raised bunk bed looks fun. Notice the light over the desk too.

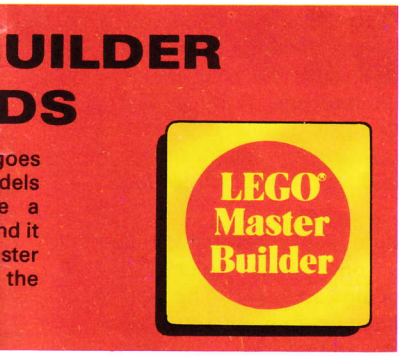
Mark Phillips David Roscoe (7) of Reading went to the Horse Trials at Badminton and the result was this action-packed model of Mark Phillips taking the water jump.

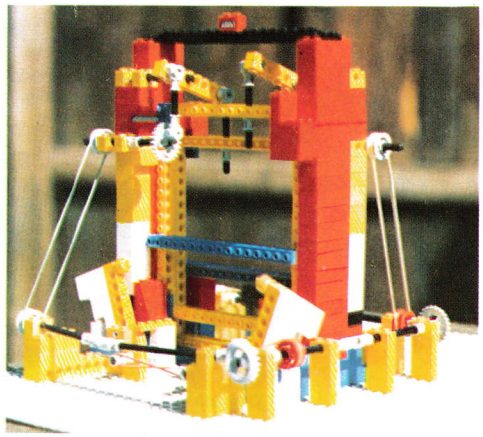


Air-Sea Rescue Lots of drama here. Note the light-house keeper with his telescope and the lifeboat being launched into the waves. Hannah Jones (6) of Maidenhead built it, helped by her brother.

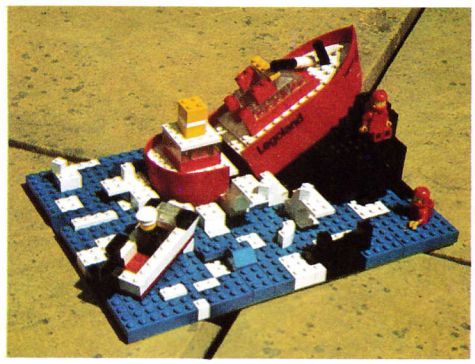


Traction Engine Another nice example of how a small model can be a winner. This one is by Andrew Rees (7) of Gloucester.

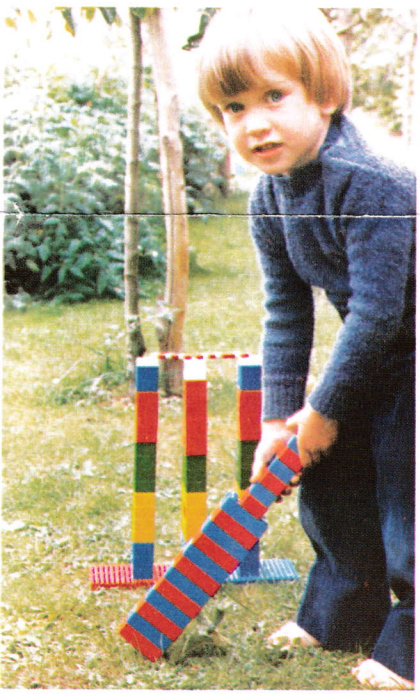




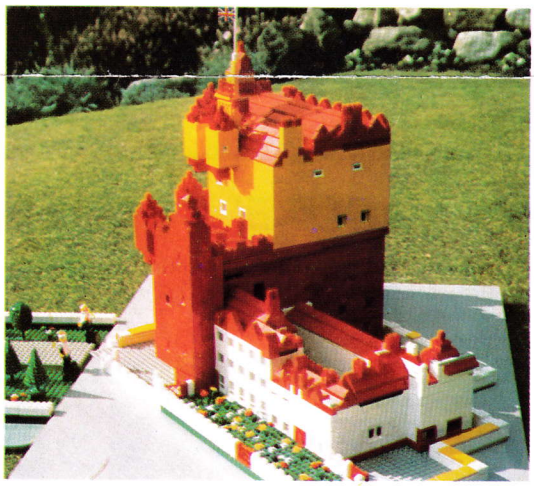
Weaving Loom Mark Harrison (11) of Scunthorpe saw a loom like this on holiday in Wales. His model works too!



Shipwreck Could this be the cause of the Air-sea Rescue alert? Except that Jeremy Price (7½) lives in Nutfield and was presumably unaware of Hannah Jones' model. But his ship on the rocks certainly needs help!

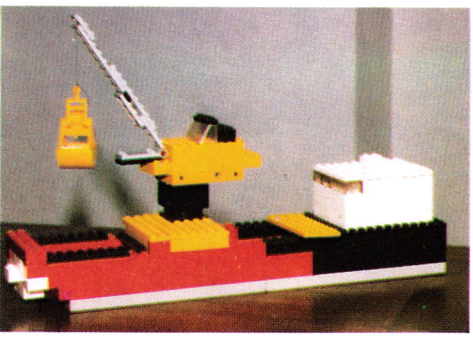


DUPLO Cricketer A model built from our big DUPLO bricks is rare so it is nice to show this one with 4-year-old Paul Stone of Chichester.

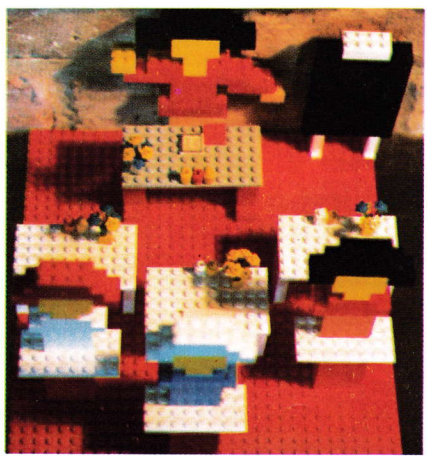


Glamis Castle A superb model of this famous Scottish castle by John Smith (8) of Aberdeen who visited the castle on the Queen Mother's 80th birthday.

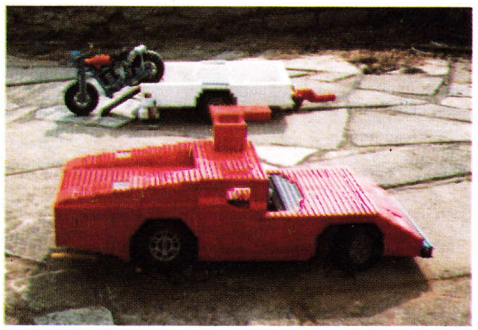
Trojan Horse Graham Foreman (14) of Hemel Hempstead has obviously been reading the exciting stories from Greek mythology. The result is this original model of the Wooden Horse of Troy. Notice the warriors round its feet to give it scale.



Dredger A very neat, workmanlike model of a mud dredger by Peter Brown (8) of Godalming.



In Class Tina Mellish (9) of Slough must go to a nice school if all the pupils have flowers on their desks as in her model.



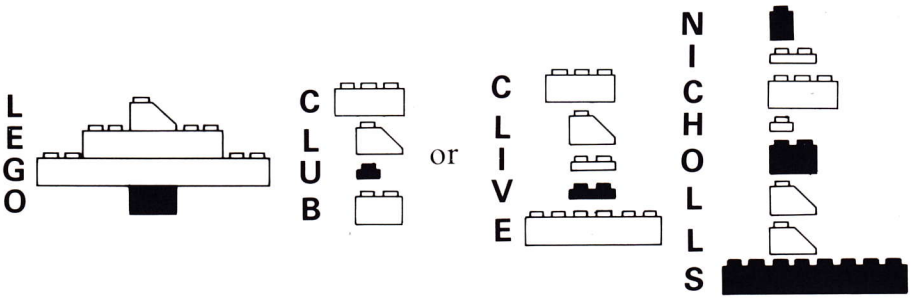
Lamborghini Car This superb model is based on the 8860 Technical Set car chassis and shows what can be done when you add your own imagination to the models we design. It has gull wing doors, lights that work and an engine under the bonnet of course. Robert Jeffrey (10) of Luton is the proud builder.

CAN YOU SPEAK LEGO?

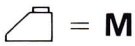
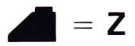
Here is a great new idea. A secret code which only Club Members are allowed to use. It is called BUILDACODE because you can actually build coded words out of LEGO bricks and pass messages to friends (provided they are Club Members of course) without other people knowing what you are saying.

The idea of a code was suggested by Peter and Richard Smith of Barby who win a special LEGO set prize.

The beauty of BUILDACODE is that you can either write it on paper or actually build up the words with LEGO bricks, reading from top to bottom, like this:



There are only 13 different brick shapes. By using two colours of each we get 26 letters. Thus

 = **M** but  = **Z**

Can you work out the complete code from the clues given above? It is not easy, but all the information you need is there. For example, B = a 2 stud wide white brick and C = a 3 stud wide white brick. So what is A?

There is a prize of a LEGO set worth over £5 for the first correct letter opened on *May 11th* so get your entries in before then, addressed to:

Buildacode Competition
LEGO Builders Club
Wrexham
Clwyd LL13 7TQ

We will publish the complete code in the Summer Newsletter along with the lucky winner's name.

COMPETITION CORNER

DESIGN A CLUB BIRTHDAY CARD

We like to send Members a card on their birthday and it is time we had a new design, that is where you can help.

What do *you* think a LEGO Club birthday card should look like?

Send us your ideas. It could be a sketch in coloured pens or pencils or a photo of a LEGO model which you think would make a suitable picture on a card. We might use your actual design or re-interpret it by giving your idea to a professional designer. So it is *ideas* we are looking for rather than finished art work ready for printing.

As usual there will be prizes for the best entries from children under nine years and of nine and over so be sure to put your age on your entry as well as your name and address:

Send your entries to:

Birthday Card Competition
LEGO Builders Club
Wrexham
Clwyd LL13 7TQ

To arrive by 11th May 1981

HOW TO BECOME A SENIOR MEMBER

Those of you, who have joined the Club for a second or even third year have become KEY MEMBERS.

We will change this so that all who re-join in future will be known as SENIOR MEMBERS which we think sounds more meaningful. They will keep this title for as many years as they remain members.

Existing Key Members will also become SENIOR MEMBERS when they join again in future.

As you know, you get three Newsletters in your 12 months of membership and you should automatically get a reminder with your third Newsletter saying that your membership is completed and telling you how you can re-join as a SENIOR MEMBER.

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'MY HOUSE' COMPETITION WINNERS

Thanks to all of you who sent in pictures of models of your houses. And congratulations to the winners who each get a LEGO set.

Under 9 years

1st Prize Simon Harding (6) of Harlington has put his model in its street setting complete with cars and street lamp.

2nd Prize Liam McKenzie (8) of Fife shows the interior of his house as well, with all the family going about their business.

Over 9 years

1st Prize Jason Hubbert of Sherborne is only just 9 and wins for the details such as Mum cleaning the windows, the dustbin and the telephone wires.

2nd Prize This goes to Philip Bennet (13) of Chichester for this very elegant model with its attractive garden.